

## Message Text

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ACTION OS-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ISO-00 CU-04 AID-07 MMS-03 SS-10 PPT-01

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R 180848Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0366

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASCH, AFSP, HU

SUBJECT: TEACHERS' VISAS AND MISSION PERSONNEL CEILINGS

REFS: 1) STATE 187816 2) BUDAPEST 3162

1. ACTION REQUESTED: AMBASSADOR HAS HAD FURTHER DISCUSSION OF QUESTION OF SIZE OF RESPECTIVE MISSIONS AND STATUS OF TEACHERS WITH VARKONYI. WE NOT BELIEVE WE ARE IN POSITION TO SOLVE MATTERS INVOLVED SATISFACTORILY. DEPARTMENT REQUESTED TO AUTHORIZE US ASAP TO COMPLETE EXCHANGE OF NOTES AND LETTERS WITH HUNGARIANS ON BASIS LANGUAGE AND PROCEDURE SET FORTH BELOW.

2. RE PERSONNEL CEILINGS, VARKONYI TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT AT DEPARTMENT'S REQUEST HUNGARIAN EMBASSY HAD FORWARDED OFFICIAL PROPOSAL FOR INCREASE OF 15 THROUGH HUNGARIAN EMBASSY. SAID THEY WERE NOW AWAITING ANSWER. AMBASSADOR SAID REPLY WOULD BE CONVEYED THROUGH THE EMBASSY HERE AND HE WAS CONFIDENT THERE WOULD BE NO INSURMOUNTABLE PROBLEMS. SAID, HOWEVER, HE WANTED TO GO OVER ONE OR TWO CONNECTED ASPECTS.

3. IF WE COULD REACH AGREEMENT ON ENLARGEDIBELING WE WOULD WANT TO BE SURE AGREEMENT WOULD INCLUDE APPROPRIATE VISAS FOR TEACHERS, IN WHICH CASE THEY COULD BE INCLUDED IN THE LIMIT. ASKED WHETHER, IF WE COULD INDICATE TEACHERS WERE PERFORMING  
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A SERVICE FOR EMBASSY GOH COULD DO THIS, VARKONYI SAID HE THOUGHT IT COULD AND THAT HE WOULD LET EMBASSY KNOW ASAP.

4. VARKONYI LATER CALLED BACK TO INFORM EMBASSY THAT POLICE WOULD CURRENTLY PROVIDE ADDITIONAL 30DAY VISAS FOR THE TEACHERS AND THAT IF WE GAVE THEM NOTE COVERING ABOVE POINTS IT WAS "ALMOST CERTAIN" THAT GOH WOULD IN RETURN REPLY STATING WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE LONGER TERM VISAS FOR TWO TEACHERS AND AGREEING THAT THEY BE INCLUDED UNDER EMBASSY CEILINGS. HE ADDED THIS PROCEDURE WOULD PROVIDE STATUS NEEDED TO AVOID TAXES AND ARREST PROBLEMS, WORK PERMITS, ETC. IF THIS PROCEDURE WERE FOLLOWED, VARKONYI SAID HE THOUGHT THAT AFTERWARDS ALL MATTERS HAVING TO DO WITH TEACHERS COULD BE HANDLED THROUGH THE PROTOCOL SECTION, FONOFF.

5. AS LACK OF HOUSING AVAILABILITY COULD CREATE PRACTICAL RESTRICTIONS ON SIZE OF OUR STAFF HERE WHICH WOULD NOT RESTRICT GOH IN WASHINGTON, AMBASSADOR ALSO TOLD VARKONYI EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO SEE SOME STATEMENT IN OUR EXCHANGE RE GOH INTENT TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING HOUSING FOR ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL. AMBASSADOR VARKONYI SAID GOH HAD NO DESIRE TO USE HOUSING PROBLEM AS DEVICE TO LIMIT NUMBER OF PERSONNEL. IT WAS PART OF GOH RESPONSIBILITY TO HELP US WITH HOUSING AND THEY WOULD OF COURSE DO SO. AT SAME TIME THEY HAD SERIOUS PRACTICAL PROBLEMS. HE SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL IF WE COULD PROVIDE FONOFF WITH AS MUCH ADVANCE NOTICE AS POSSIBLE WHEN WE EXPECT NEW PERSONNEL (HE MENTIONED 8-10 MONTHS). VARKONYI DID NOT INDICATE SPECIFICALLY WHETHER FONOFF WOULD INCLUDE LANGUAGE IN EXCHANGE OF NOTES BUT WE BELIEVE THEY MAY BE WILLING TO DO SO AND WILL ASK THEM TO. IF NOT WE WOULD REST ON SENTENCE IN OUR OWN NOTE.

6. WE BELIEVE THIS WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO SETTLE BOTH QUESTIONS. LANGUAGE WE PROPOSE TO USE IS: QUOTE (COURTESY OPENING.) THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY REFERS TO THE PROPOSAL OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MADE THROUGH THE HUNGARIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON THAT THE RESPECTIVE PERSONNEL CEILINGS OF OUR EMBASSIES BE RAISED TO 46. THE UNITED STATES CONCURS IN THE SUGGESTION. IN DOING SO, AND HAVING REGARD TO THE FACT THAT THE DIFFICULTIES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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OF OBTAINING HOUSING IN BUDAPEST COULD CREAT PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES, IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT WILL EXTEND THE NECESSARY ASSISTANCE TO OBTAIN HOUSING FOR PERSONNEL OF THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY WHEN IT MAY BE NEEDED.

7. THE EMBASSY ALSO REFERS TO ITS NOTES 458 OF AUGUST 22, 1973 AND 430 OF AUGUST 8, 1973 CONCERNING MISSES LASSETT AND IVELICH, BOTH TEACHERS AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY SCHOOL IN BUDAPEST. IN CARRYING OUT THEIR FUNCTIONS AS

TEACHERS, MISSES LASSETT AND IVELICH ARE PERFORMING A SERVICE FOR THE EMBASSY AND ACCORDINGLY, WITH THIS INCREASE AND THE ISSUANCE OF THE APPROPRIATE VISAS, MAY BE INCLUDED WITHIN THE APPROVED PERSONNEL CEILINGS APPLIED TO OUR RESPECTIVE EMBASSIES.

8. THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING A REPLY TO THIS NOTE FROM THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AT ITS EARLIEST CONVENIENCE. (COURTESY CLOSE.)  
UNQUOTE

9. WE WILL ASK FOR CONFIRMATION BOTH ON TEACHERS AND ON HOUSING IN REPLY.

10. SINCE TEACHERS' VISAS EXTENSION EXPIRES NOVEMBER 15, WE HOPE DEPARTMENT CAN AUTHORIZE US TO PROCEED SOONEST ALONG LINES INDICATED ABOVE.  
PEDERSEN

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